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its diameter three. The only entire object in metal was a poniard, the layers of the blade peeling off and broken. It measured thirty-five centimetres in length. There was a point of another.

Lastly, there was a human bone completing the contents of the cavern, which is now no longer accessible, the ditch having been filled with dead and closed. The objects, however, are carefully preserved in the municipal building of the Piano. — CLARA L. WELLS, Rome, October 19, 1876.

GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

NEWBERRY'S GEOLOGY OF PARTS OF NEW MEXICO AND UTAH.[1] — Although much of the region surveyed by Professor Newberry in 1859 has been reëxamined by later explorers, yet geologists will be interested in this account of the independent observations of so distinguished an observer, while the traveler and explorer will be attracted by the fine colored views of the more striking points in the scenery of the route surveyed. The report is divided into seven chapters, and is accompanied by eleven chromo-lithograph plates of views taken in Northwestern New Mexico, Southwestern Colorado, and Southeastern Utah. Eight plates accompanying the palæontological descriptions of Mr. Meek and Professor Newberry illustrate the fossil shells and plants. Archæologists will be interested in the account on page 41 of the ancient mines of turquois, or *chalchuitl*, situated in Los Cerillos Range in New Mexico, as well as in the views and account of the ancient ruins of the San Juan Valley, which this party was one of the first to visit.

GEOGRAPHY AND EXPLORATION.

WARREN'S IMPROVEMENTS OF THE FOX AND WISCONSIN RIVERS.[2] — In a report of over one hundred pages, illustrated by ten maps and plates, Gen. G. K. Warren, who has long been connected with Western and Eastern river improvements, and in so doing has always had an eye to the scientific relations of the subject before him, gives a historical sketch of the discovery of the route of these two rivers, with plans for their improvement by a canal. By the maps and scattered observations the report is rendered one of much general geological and geographical interest.

SIMPSON'S EXPLORATIONS ACROSS THE GREAT BASIN OF UTAH. — To those interested in Western geography this volume (which has been in MS. since 1860) will have an especial interest. Not only is it valuable from the large mass of unpublished facts regarding the region traversed, but from the historical *résumé* of explorations made in the Great Basin from 1776 until 1869, given by Colonel Simpson, and from the abstracts and quotations from Father Escalanti's MS. journal, now said to be treasured up in the city of Mexico, and of which a copy was contained in the library of Col. Peter Force, of Washington. Besides the itinerary by Colonel Simpson, and several appendices giving the astronomical, meteorological, and geographical results of the expedition, there are valuable reports on the geology, palæontology, natural history, and ethnology chiefly of Utah, including elaborate treatises on the ichthyology by Professor Gill, and on the botany of the route by Dr. Engelmann, both of which are accompanied by numerous plates.

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[1] *Report of the Exploring Expedition from Santa Fé, New Mexico, to the Junction of the Grand and Green Rivers of the Great Colorado of the West, in* 1859, *under the Command of Capt. (now Col.) J. N. Macomb, U. S. Engineers.* With Geological Report by Prof. J. S. NEWBERRY. Washington, D. C. 1876. 4to, pp. 148. With maps and plates.

[2] *Report of Explorations across the Great Basin of the Territory of Utah, for a Direct Wagon Route from Camp Floyd to Genoa, in Carson Valley, in* 1859. By Capt. (now Col.) J. H. SIMPSON, U. S. Engineers. Washington. 1876. 4to, pp. 495. Maps and 17 plates.

Recent Changes of Level of the Great Salt Lake. — The party which started about seven days ago under Captain D. L. Davis to explore the western shore of the Great Salt Lake returned last evening after a successful trip. Starting from near Farmington, the party touched at Church Island and then sailed direct to Strong's Point, where the old triangular monument, erected by Stansbury, was found intact. The lake was found to have risen so that many miles marked as lake shore on the maps is now from six to ten feet under water. The Water Witch sailed "inland" for about twelve miles, when the occupants waded ashore and took observations, but it was found that there is a general elevation of the land, which, though slight, precludes the possible lowering of the lake in this direction. The party then beat along the shores northward as far as Kelton, landing frequently to make observations and take angles. It was found, however, that the shifting of the lake westward was an impossibility. Touching at Fremont Island, the company returned with the problem answered, but not satisfactorily. — *Salt Lake Times*, September 14, 1876.

MICROSCOPY.[1]

Cleaning Diatoms with Glycerine. — Mr. James Neil, of Cleveland, uses glycerine as an easy and efficacious means of separating diatom shells from the foreign matter with which they are naturally mixed. He fills a two-ounce graduated measuring glass three quarters full of glycerine and water mixed in equal parts. The diatoms after being treated with acid and thoroughly washed, are then shaken up in some pure water and poured gently over the diluted glycerine. If carefully done the water and diatoms do not at first sink into the glycerine, but gradually the diatoms sink through the water, and into the glycerine, preceding the light flocculent matter held in the water. After a few minutes, a pipe introduced closed through the water and into the glycerine will bring up remarkably clean diatoms, which are to be afterward freed from glycerine by repeated washing and decanting. Coloring the water in which the diatoms are held is thought to aid in watching

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[1] Conducted by Dr. R. H. Ward, Troy, N. Y.